



# Arkansas River Advisory Committee

Meeting Highlights from April 26, 2006

Place: 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall 455 N. Main, South Conference Room

*Next Meeting Scheduled:*

## **Agenda Item 1: Introductions & updates**

### **In attendance:**

Rich Basore  
Jack Brown  
Kathy Dittmer  
Susan Erlenwein (for Irene Hart)  
Sharon Fearey  
Don Henry (for Libby Albers)  
Betty Pitts  
Joe Yager

### Updates

- On **Saturday, May 6** from **9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**, the City of Wichita is coordinating a "River Trash Round-up." Numerous civic organizations such as the Sierra Club, the Arkansas River Coalition and North Riverside Neighborhood Association are joining in the clean-up effort.
- The City will provide gloves and trash bags for volunteers as well as a packer truck to collect debris.
- Sierra Club plans to do a literature drop to the neighborhoods adjacent to the river
- Meet in the SE corner of the Lawrence-Dumont Stadium parking. Clean up to occur from Garvey Park to Sim, Minisa Park.

## **Agenda Item 2: River fest Update Monitoring & Public Communication**

### Monitoring: sampling & testing

- Jim will begin sampling on May 2<sup>nd</sup> - E. coli will be measured
- A 5-day mean will be used to calculate the water quality
- One sample will be taken at the Lewis street bridge each morning during RF and taken to the W&S lab at Plant 2 for analysis. 24-hour delay on results to allow the E.coli cultures to mature in the lab

### Communication: testing results; flags

- Karen at the lab will report the findings to Becky Gagnon, Becky will relay them to Jim and Kay Johnson, and a determination will be made regarding the flags at that time.
- Flag Levels: <http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/River/RiverQualityStatus.htm>
- Flags will remain blue if the E. coli levels are from 0-163. The flags will go green if above levels 164, and orange in the event of high flow or other unsafe conditions.

## **Agenda Item 3: Visioneering Wichita**

There are 2 Visioneering groups working on "cleaning up the river"  
Improving recreation

## **Agenda Item 4: Discussions**

Are there going to be River Ambassadors this year?

Is the grant still available that covered the ambassadors in the past?

The ambassador program is great for surveying residents for public perception of river and quality of life.

Are there any new plans for rest of year?

The dam at John Mac Bridge has local support.

The dam was on list for federal appropriations but did not make the cut; often the case with such "area specific" proposals.

Dam is part of neighborhood plan  
Dam is not in CIP yet  
US Corp of Engineers and DWR would be involved in permitting  
Clean ups should be organized for the Little Ark  
Trash and debris especially bad around commercial areas  
Little Ark has sand bars that need removing  
Does the Corps of Engineers have any responsibility for keeping the rivers clean (Little and Big Ark)  
The Corps has interest in tributaries of navigable streams, such as Little Ark  
El Dorado field office should have info on how to get cleaned up  
Need to know what is the jurisdiction, what is the process  
Need more public awareness  
Need to invite Steve with the Corps of Engineers to a future meeting.  
Will there be a follow up clean up after River fest?

## **Adjourn**

### ***Notes: To do's and follow up's***

*The contact person for the South Central Progressive Neighbors is Dale Churchman; please e-mail info to Yvonne.*

*What is up with River Ambassadors*

*Will there be a follow up river clean up after River Fest*

*Invite Corps of Engineers to meeting in the near future*